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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 W
----------104934 151505Z /42
R 151334Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9537

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 3259

FOR ANDREWS FROM SIMONS, EUR/EE THREE COPIES ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN, RO
SUBJ: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. FROM CARL SCHMIDT (WITH WHOM WE HAD A NICE VISIT):
-- HE REACHED TONI LEWIS BY PHONE FROM BUCHAREST; SHE DOES NOT WISH TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT FOR PART II OF HER OER.
-- REGARDING TIMING FOR NORM FRISBEE'S ASSIGNMENT TO MUNICH, PLEASE ASK PER TO GET OUT A MESSAGE TO HIM IN NAIROBI STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF HAVING SUFFICIENT TIME FOR OVERLAP IN MUNICH WITH GILMORE. CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, EVEN INCLUDING TIME WITH BIB AND EUR/CE, WOULD NOT REQUIRE MORE THAN TEN DAYS OR SO, WHEREAS IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL FOR FRISBEE TO BE INTRODUCED TO AND BRIEFED ON CAST OF CHARACTERS IN RFE/RL ON THE SPOT IN MINICH. CARL SUGGESTS THAT YOU OR PER CONSULT DIRECTLY WITH GILMORE FIRST REGARDING TIMING OF FRISBEE'S ARRIVAL IN MUNICH, BEFORE SENDING CABLE TO FRISBEE.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTACLES TO EMIGRATION REQUESTS (STATE 107324). WE ARE OF COURSE ACUTELY AWARE OF IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE, AND GROWING CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST, AND HILL STAFFER CASSIDY STRESSED POINT AGAIN (AT LEAST WITH REFERENCE TO RIBICOFF) IN GARMISCH. ONE PROBLEM IS ADMINISTRATIVE DECENTRALIZATION, STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM:
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AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, JURISDICTION FOR DECIDING WHO GETS APPLICATION FORMS FOR PASSPORTS RESTS WITH LOCAL MILITIA (POLICE) OFFICE, AND SINCE PROVINCIAL OFFICES ARE NOT ALWAYS INFORMED OF WAY WIND IS BLOWING, BUT KNOW ABOUT GENERAL POLICY OF DISCOURAGING EMIGRATION, RESULTS ARE REFUSALS OF FORMS UNTIL POWERS IN BUCHAREST GIVE BLESSSING ON SPECIFIC CASE. ON RECENT PERFORMANCE, HOWEVER, WHILE

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YOU CORRECTLY NOTE THAT RESULTS FOR SECOND HALF 1977
WERE DISAPPOINTING, PRE-AND POST-VISIT UPSWING SHOULD
HAVE TAKEN UP PART OF SLACK, AND IS ENCOURAGING. WE ALSO
HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT MORE APPROVALS WILL BE FORTH-
COMING BEFORE END OF MAY, AND HAVE EXPRESSED HOPE TO MFA THAT
EXPERIENCE OF DRASTIC DROP IN APPROVAL RATE AFTER MFN APPROVAL
WILL NOT BE REPEATED THIS YEAR. AMBASSADOR CALLS MAY 18 ON
PASSPORT DIRECTOR GENERAL POPESCU AND WILL REEMPHASIZE TPU
POINT.

3. JEWISH EMIGRATION. FOUR POINTS:
-- ON COPIES OF CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE
CONCERNING POTENTIAL APPLICANTS FOR ISRAEL, THOSE YOU
SEND US ARE FILED AWAY IN JEWISH EMIGRATION FILE. IN
CASES OF HIGH INTEREST, MATTER IS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION
OF ISRAELI EMBASSY BY DCM OR AMBASSADOR, ONLY LEVEL WITH
ANY POTENTIAL EFFECT AT ALL GIVEN ISRAELI POLITICAL PRE-
FERENCE FOR DEALING WITH ISSUE IN TERMS OF BIG PICTURE
RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL CASES.
-- ON IDEA OF AMNESTY FOR POTENTIAL EMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL
BARRED BY PRIOR "ECONOMIC CRIMES" AND ON WHAT WAS SAID
DURING DAYAN VISIT, AMBASSADOR IS SEEKING EARLY MEETING
WITH AMBASSADOR GEFEUW TO RAISE BOTH. AS WITH INDIVIDUAL
CASES, EXPECTATIONS SHOULD BE PRUDENT, HOWEVER: GEFEN
IS LIKELY TO BE AS CLOSEMOUTHED AS HE CAN--WHICH IS CON-
SIDERABLE.
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-- ON CYRUS ABBE (STATE 121767 AND 122194), COPIES OF
LETTERS LIFTED BY ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES WERE SENT TO EUR/EE
IN MAY 8 POUCH FOR FORWARDING TO CONGRESSMEN RANGHEL AND
WAXMAN. ABBE WAS TOLD AT LEAST FOUR TIMES BY EMBASSY OFFICERS
THAT SOLICITING AND CARRYING SUCH LETTERS AROUND COULD EN-
DANGER WRITERS, AND ADVISED NOT TO TRY TO TAKE THEM OUT
AT AIRPORT. THERE ARE LIMITS TO EMBASSY'S EFFECTIVENESS IN
CASES LIKE THESE, WHICH WE REGRET BUT MUST RECOGNIZE.
-- ON ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE VISIT, WE ARE OF COURSE DE-
LIGHTED TO HAVE THEM, AND AMBASSADOR WOULD LIKE TO HAVE
RECEPTION FOR THEM. RE LATTER, HOWEVER, THEY ARRIVE AT
BUSY TIME, JUST AFTER COUNCIL MEETING AND JUST BEFORE JULY 4,
AND IT OCCURRED TO US THAT IF THEY COULD MOVE VISIT BACK
BY JUST A FEW DAYS THEY COULD BE HERE FOR 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF RABBI ROSEN'S INSTALLATION AS CHIEF RABBI IN 1948, AND
BE INCLUDED IN JULY 4 FESTIVITIES AS WELL. PLEASE ADVISE.

4. COUNSELOR NIMETZ JID COUNCIL MEETING. WE UNDERSTAND
FROM BOTH CARL AND AMBASSADOR BOGDAN (IN AMBASSADOR AND
CARL'S MEETING WITH HIM MAY 11) THAT COUNSELOR NIMETZ MAY
WELL BE HERE FOR COUNCIL SESSION. YOU MAY IMAGINE HOW
WELCOME HE IS, ANY TIME HE WISHES TO COME; ONLY QUESTION

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WHICH AROSE IS WHETHER HE MIGHT NOT BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF
HE HAD SOME MORE DISTANCE FROM ESSENTIALLY BUSINESS ORIENTA-
TION OF COUNCIL SESSIONS, WHICH COULD FORCE HIM INTO AWKWARD
MEDIATOR ROLE ON DETAIL AND MUDDY GOR PERCEPTIONS OF U.S.
GOVERNMENT-BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS EVEN FURTHER. IN ANY EVENT,
SOONER WE HAVE GOOD READOUT ONHBIS TRAVEL PLANS, BETTER WE
WILL BE ABLE TO PREPARE FOR YOUOUS ADVENT.

5. MCGOVERN VISIT (STATE 103805). WHILE WAITING FOR FURTHER
DETAILS ON SENATOR'S DESIRE (INTIMATED BY BOTH GLIGA AND BOGDAN)
TO HAVE HIM ARRIVE WHILE CEAUSESCU IS IN TOWN, I.E. AFTER
JUNE 1.

6. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION. INFORMALLY AND AT WORKING
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LEVEL, GOR HAS INDICATED IT MAY WISH TO SCHEDULE NEXT JOINT
ECONOMIC COMMISSION MEETING DURING FIRST HALF OF NOVEMBER.

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ACTION EUR-03

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----------105038 151521Z /42
R 151334Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9538

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUCHAREST 3259

THESE RUMBLIMGS MAY SOON GIVE RISE TO FORMAL PROPOSALS.
AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED QUESTION OF SCHEDULING AND LEVEL OF
U.S. REPRESENTATION WHILE IN WASHINGTON WITH WILDE AND
LUERS, AMONG OTHERS. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THERE ARE
THREE OPTIONS: (1) NOVEMBER WITH U.S. DELEGATION HEADED
BY SECRETARY KREPS; (2) NOVEMBER WITH DELEGATION HEADED BY
ONE OF KREPS' DEPUTIES; (3) PROPOSE TO GOR THAT FIFTH SESSION
TAKE PLACE IN SPRING OF 1979 WITH DELEGATION LED BY SECRETARY
KREPS. IN VIEW OF LIKELIHOOD WE WILL BE ASKED FORMALLY TO
COMMENT ON GOR PROPOSAL FOR NOVEMBER MEETING, WE NEED

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RADOUT FROM YOU ON PRESENT WASHINGTON THINKING.

7. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION (CONTINUED). SEVERAL FACTORS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED, WE THINK, IF DELIBERATIONS ARE STILL UNDERWAY. JOINT STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 1973 PROVIDES FOR ANNUAL MEETINGS OF COMMISSION. JOINT DECLARATION OF APRIL 1978 IMPLICITLY SUPPORTS EARLIER UNDERTAKING, IN THAT 1973 DECLARATION IS RECALLED, AND SECTION II IN GENERAL AND PARAS 1 AND 5 IN PARTICULAR WOULD APPEAR TO REGISTER OUR WILL TO PROCEED WITH MEETING AT SOMETHING RESEMBLING EXISTING LEVEL AND FREQUENCY. WE ARE AWARE THAT SOME AT LEAST IN DOC WOULD LIKE TO GET AWAY FROM ANNUAL MEETINGS, AND NOT ENTIRELY UNSYMPATHETIC. BUT GROUND WOULD HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFULLY PREPARED--AND AT OPPORTUNE TIME--IF WE WANT TO CHANGE EITHER

FREQUENCY OR LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION. WE HAVE SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT TRYING TO DO IT NOW, IN WAKE OF PRESENDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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VISIT AND ON EVE OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF TRADE AGREEMENT/MFN. KREPS IN NOVEMBER IS THEREFORE EMBASSY'S CLEAR PREFERENCE, AND WASHINGTON COMMUNITY MUST BE MADE

AWARE THAT SELECTION OF ANY OTHER OPTION WILL INVOLVE POSSIBILITY OF PUTTING PREMATURE END TO PRESENT GLOW IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND THUS OF DECELERATING GOR PERFORMANCE ON EMIGRATION AND OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES.

8. DECREE 223 (STATE 122194). AMBASSADOR HAS REQUESTED MEETING WITH FINANCE MINISTER NICULSCU ON THIS SISUE. AS YOU WILL RECALL, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BURTICA SIMPLY PASSED AMBASSADOR'S MARCH 17 LETTER TO NICULESCU FOR ACTION. TIMING OF MEETING WITH NICULESCU HAS NOT YET BEEN SET, AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE WEJXESDAY MAY 17. WE WILL OF COURSE REPORT RESULTS, AND HOPE AT MEETING TO RECONSOLIDATE GOR POSITION AS OF NOVEMBER 1977, I.E. THAT IT WOULD SEEK ADMINISTRATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR VALID CLEHMS OF U.S. NATIONALS FOR PROPERTY VALUED AT MORE THAN MAXIMUM SET BY DECREE 223. FURTHER, WE WILL REQUEST RESPONSES TO THREE SPECIFIC CASES FORWARDED UNDER COVER OF MARCH 17 LETTER.

9. ION POPA (STATE 122194). WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED POPA'S CABLE ANNOUNCING TRANSMITTAL OF AFFIDAVITS OF SUPPORT, AND ARE PROCESSING WIFE AND CHILD AS TCP CASES THROUGH TOME. NEED NO MORE FOR MOMENT, AND DO NOT EXPECT TO.

10. EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE (STATE 121767). THE MAJOR SENSITIVE POINT FOR GOR IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSISTANCE WAS AND REMAINS PUBLICITY FOR OR PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF ANY INTER-

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GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, WRITTEN OR ORAL, CONCERNING
INSPECTION. THE GOR OBJECTS TO THIS ON BASIS THAT IT
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"INFRINGES ON SOVEREIGNTY" AND BREACHES THE PRINCIPLE OF
EQUALITY IN RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES. FURTHERMORE, THEIR
AGREEMENT TO SUCH INSPECTION PROVISION WOULD SET A VERY
UGLY PRECEDENT. THEY CLAIM NEVER TO HAVE AGREED TO
"INSPECTION" AS AN AID RECEIPIENT NOR TO HAVE REQUESTED AT
AS A DONOR. THEREFORE, THE GOR STRONGLY WISHES THAT OUR
UNDERSTANDING WITH THEM CONCERNING "VISITS" BY THE AMBASSADOR
OR OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS PLACES IN ROMANIA WHERE U.S.
EQUIPMENT IS IMPLACED OR EMPLOYED IN EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUC-
TION REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.
-- PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S ASSURANCES TO AMBASSADOR AGGREY
(BUCHAREST 2144) ON MARCH 31 THAT U.S. EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES
PROVIDED AND TO BE PROVIDED WOULD BE USED EXLCUSIVELY FOR
THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS GRANTED IS ANOTHER MATTER.
WHILE IN OUR JUDGEMENT THAT THE GOR WOULD PREFER THAT THE
ASSURANCE BE HELD AS CONFIDENTIAL AS WELL, WE BELIEVE THEY
WOULD BE SOMEWHAT LESS SENSITIVE TO RELEASE OF THAT
ASSURANCETHAN TO ANY BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY ON "VISITS."
AGGREY

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